Mr. P. Govinda Menon.— Are the Government aware that in many cases they find it difficult to remit the printing charges on account of the high rate of printing?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Government are not aware. It is not due to the high printing charges that they find it difficult to remit the amount but due to the economic depression that is prevalent.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon.— Then in view of the economic depression is it not the duty of the Government to see that the printing is got done at the lowest cost possible?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.— Government do not think that the rates are very high.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— But is it not the duty of the Government to see whether it could be got done at a lower cost?

Mr. President.—Of course that could be ascertained.

Conversion of Padiathode Canal into a navigable canal.

163. Mr. P. C. Varkey.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 7,932 provided under item 227 of the current year's budget is for converting Padiathode canal into a navigable canal, from the backwater to the deep water canal lying on the eastern side of Ernakulam Town;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the Municipal Council was consulted in the matter and will they be pleased to place a copy of the plan prepared for the scheme on the table;

(c) if the answer is in the negative, will they be pleased to explain the details of the improvements for which the amount has been included in the budget?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) No.

(b) No answer is necessary in view of answer to subdivision (a).

(c) The proposed improvements are of the nature of grading the canal giving it a bottom width of 10' and a side slope of 1½:1 and involve the reconstruction of the 6' culvert on the Chittur road and the construction of two new foot-bridges at places where the municipal lanes cross the canal.

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Mr. P. C. Varkey.—Is there any idea to make that canal navigable?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— There is at present no idea.

Construction of a Town Hall at Ernakulam.

164. Mr. P. C. Varkey.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to construct a Town Hall at Ernakulam and if the answer be in the affirmative, whether they have decided on the site for the same and if decided, what is the name or description of the site chosen?

Mr. V. K. Arvindaksha Menon.—Yes. The site has not been fixed.

Full-time Engineer for Mechanical, etc., Departments.

165. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is a proposal to appoint a full-time Engineer for Mechanical, Electrical and Water Works Department in view of the introduction of electricity in the State;

(b) if the answer to the above question is in the affirmative the reasons thereof?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Drivers at Water Works Head Works, Chowwara.

166. Mr. George Parakkal.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how many drivers are there at Water Works Head Works, Chowwara;

(b) who are the present incumbents and what are their pay, services and qualifications;

(c) is not Mr. Karunakara Menon, one of the drivers, senior in service, and better qualified for promotion in place of Mr. D. M. Raju, promoted as Water Works Supervisor?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) 3.

(b) A list is appended. *(Appendix II.)*

(c) Please see list appended. No. 1 is better qualified for promotion.

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